

B. Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 30, lines 10-20, with the following paragraph.

--A vacuum is drawn in the processing bath 1 by the liquid discharge/vacuum suction unit 15 which is kept operated even after the pure water N in the processing bath 1 is completely discharged. By this evacuation, the alcohol X and humidity remaining on the surface of the substrate W, in the depression [[W]] W-1, and in the processing bath 1 are forcedly exhausted (step 39). In this low pressure drying process, the vacuum degree in the processing bath 1 can be freely adjusted by intermittently operating the liquid discharge/vacuum suction unit 15, or by controlling the suction force of the unit 15.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 40, lines 2-11, with the following paragraph.

--When steps 49 to 52 are repeated a preset number of times (N times) and a processing time preset as the time for the chemical treatment of the substrate W has elapsed (YES in step 53), the liquid discharge/vacuum suction unit 15 is stopped, and the drain valve 13 is ~~opened~~ closed. In addition, a gas supply unit 19 is operated, and a gas valve 23 is opened. As a consequence, a gas is supplied from a gas supply port 18 into the processing bath 1 to return the internal pressure of the processing bath 1 to the atmospheric pressure (step 54).--

Please replace the paragraph at page 50, lines 14-23, with the following paragraph.

--When steps 61 to 64 are repeated a preset number of times (N times) and a processing time preset as the time for the chemical treatment of the substrate W has elapsed (YES in step 65), the liquid discharge/vacuum suction unit 15 is stopped, and the drain valve 13 is ~~opened~~ closed. In addition, a gas supply unit 19 is operated, and a gas valve 23 is opened. As a consequence, a gas is supplied from a gas supply port 18 into the processing bath 1 to return the internal pressure of the processing bath 1 to the atmospheric pressure (step 66).--